

and more youthful hands than his.
His work done. It was time for
him to go.

The two Augusti were laying down
their power simultaneously, for Maximian
was performing a public act of
renunciation at Milan. The two Caesars,
Constantius and Galerius, would thus
automatically move up into the empty
places and become Augusti in their stead.
It had been necessary, therefore, to select
two new Caesars, and these
Diocletian about to present to the
loyalty of the legions, are told that
the secret had been well kept, that
the soldiers waited with suppressed
excitement until Diocletian suddenly
announced that his power had fallen upon
Severus, one of his trusted generals and
upon Maximin Daza, a nephew of
Emperor Severus had already been sent to
Milan to be invested by Maximian ;
Maximin was present on the tribunal and
was then and there robed in the purple.
The ceremony over, Diocletian — a
private citizen once more, though he still
retained the title of Augustus — drove
back to Nicomedia and at once set out for
Salona, on the Adriatic, where he
had a sumptuous palace for his
retirement.

The scene which we have depicted
is described most fully and most
graphically by a historian's testimony,
unfortunately, is entirely suspect in
terms of detail. The author of *The
Deaths of the Emperors* — it is very
doubtful whether Lactantius, to whom
the work has long been attributed really
wrote it, but for the sake of convenience
reference we may credit him with it
— is at the most untrustworthy and
the most vigorous